

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are pending in this application. Claims 3 and 20-23 are objected to for depending from rejected base claims. Claims 1, 2, 4-19 and 24-33 stand rejected and assignee respectfully traverses the rejections.

Rejoinder

The instant Office action withdraws the restriction requirement set forth in the October 29, 2008, Office action and considers the merits of the previously withdrawn claims 11-16. Thus, claims 11-16 are now rejoined in the claim listing as “previously presented” claims.

Claim Objections

Claims 7 and 31 are objected to because of informalities. Claims 7 and 31 are amended as the examiner suggested. It is respectfully requested that the informality objections against claims 7 and 31 be withdrawn.

Claims 3 and 20-23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. For the reason stated below, amended claim 1 is believed to be allowable, and thus claims 3 and 20-23 are allowable as dependent claims from claim 1.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §§ 102

Claims 1, 2, 6-8, 10-12, 16, 18, 19 and 28-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Dare et al. (5,684,950). Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and the remarks contained herein.

Claim 1 is directed to a system for distributing authentication information to users of remote devices. Claim 1 recites that an authentication system retrieves authentication information comprising a seed for one of a plurality of users that is requesting remote access to a

computer network and the seed in the retrieved authentication information is used by the remote device to generate access codes for gaining access to a computer network.

Paragraph [0006] of the instant application states that a seed is a secret key that is shared between a code generator and an authentication system at the computer network. Using a seed and a current time, an access code can be generated for gaining access to a computer network. It is respectfully submitted that Dare never discloses an authentication system retrieves from an authentication information store authentication information comprising a seed for one of a plurality of users and the seed in the retrieved authentication information is used by the remote device to generate access codes for gaining access to a computer network. The Office action cites col. 5, lines 35-45 of Dare as disclosing an authentication system that retrieves authentication information upon a remote device's request and provides the retrieved authentication information to the remote device. The cited portion of Dare is part of the description of Fig. 4. Fig. 4 of Dare is reproduced here for convenience.

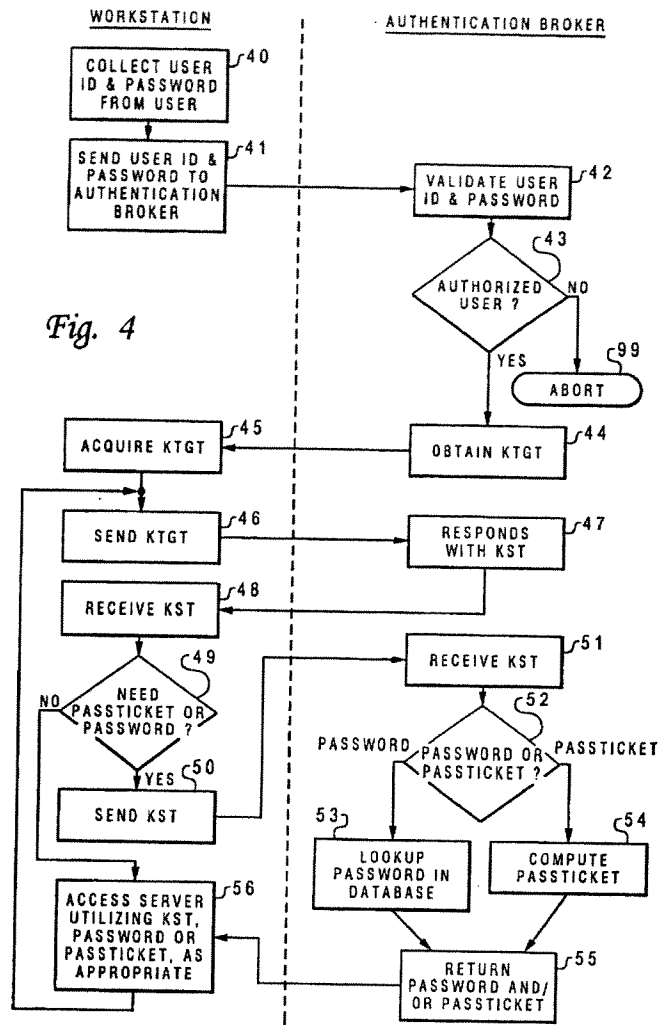


Fig. 4 of Dare is described in col. 5, lines 25-45:

A determination is made at the workstation as to whether or not a password and/or passticket are also needed, as shown in block 49.... Otherwise, if either a password or a passticket is required (or both a password and a passticket are required), the Kerberos Service Ticket is sent to the authentication broker once again, as illustrated in block 50. After receiving the Kerberos Service Ticket, a determination is subsequently made within the authentication broker as to whether a password or a passticket is needed, as shown in blocks 51 and 52.... On the contrary, if a password is needed, *a table lookup is performed by the authentication broker in a database containing all the passwords*, as shown in block 53. The computed passticket and/or obtained password are then returned back to the requesting workstation, as shown in block 55. At this point, the requesting workstation can access a server within the distributed computing network utilizing

a Kerberos Service Ticket, a passticket or a password, as appropriate.

The examiner cites the table lookup in a password database performed in Dare as disclosing the retrieval process recited by claim 1. By doing so, the examiner equates the authentication broker in Dare to the authentication system in claim 1, the password in Dare to the authentication information in claim 1, and the password database in Dare to the authentication information store in claim 1. Even if the examiner's assertion is assumed to be true, Dare does not disclose the claimed feature of amended claim 1. The password in Fig. 4 does not comprise a "seed" and is not a "seed" itself. There is no component in Dare corresponding to a code generator to share the password with the authentication broker. Moreover, no component in Dare uses the password to generate access codes for gaining access to the computer network. The authentication broker merely searches for the password and sends it to the workstation. Dare never discloses that the workstation generates anything out of the password for gaining access to the computer network. Because Dare does not teach the discussed feature of claim 1, it is respectfully requested that the § 102 rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Independent claims 30-32 are amended to recite similar subject matter as discussed above in claim 1. It is respectfully requested that the § 102 rejections of claims 30-32 be withdrawn for similar reasons as offered for claim 1.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §§ 103

Claims 4, 13-15, 17 and 24-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dare et al. (5,684,950) in view of Kefford et al. (6,880,079). Claims 5 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dare et al. (5,684,950) in view of Owen et al. (2004/0187018).

These dependent claims of claim 1 are allowable for at least similar reasons as discussed above. Assignee reserves right to present arguments with respect to each of these dependent claims at a future time if it becomes necessary.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, assignee respectfully submits that the pending claims are allowable. Therefore, the examiner is respectfully requested to pass this case to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: MATTHEW W. JOHNSON

Matthew W. Johnson
Reg. No. 59,108
JONES DAY
North Point
901 Lakeside Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44114
(412) 394-9524 (Direct)
(412) 394-7959 (Fax)
Attorney for Assignee